

Functioning of Navodaya Vidyalayas

3462. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a number of complaints about the functioning of Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action, the Government have taken thereon;

(c) the steps taken/proposed for revamping of functioning of Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(d) whether the Government propose to constitute a high level committee to look into the functioning of Navodaya Vidyalayas; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Some complaints about the functioning of Navodaya Vidyalayas have been received from time to time. These mainly relate to shortage of basic facilities such as electricity, water, play ground and accommodation at temporary site and quality of food. All such complaints are enquired into and appropriate remedial actions taken.

(c) Samiti has taken steps to speed up the construction work at permanent sites. For the Vidyalayas functioning at temporary sites, provision of all basic facilities like electricity, water accommodation etc. is arranged by the Samiti. Allocation on expenditure on boarding has been increased per child. Effective and closer monitoring is being done with a view to improve quality of food and remove other deficiencies.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Research Project of Asiatic Society

3463. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Asiatic Society of Calcutta, has sent a team to Moscow to carry out a research Project, on Indo-Russian relations;

(b) whether Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow has worked in Collaboration with Asiatic society on this research project;

(c) whether the Asiatic Society have since returned after completion of their work in Moscow;

(d) whether the Asiatic Society have since submitted any report; and

(e) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Medical and Dental Colleges in U.P.

3464. SHRI RAMSAJEEVAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any applications from the U.P. Government for setting up of Vinayak Mission Medical and Dental College in Sitapur district;

(b) if so, whether the Medical Council of India has given its recommendations for setting up of both colleges; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in recommending the same despite fulfilling all the eligibility conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has issued essentiality certificate to Thirumuruga Kirupananda Variyar Thavathiru Sundra Swamigal Medical Education and Charitable Trust for establishment of a medical college and a dental college in Sitapur District.

(b) The Medical Council of India has recommended for issue of a letter of intent for setting up a medical college but also noted that there were deficiencies in appointment of staff and other necessary requirements. On the basis of the recommendations of the Dental Council of India, a letter of intent has been issued for establishment of a dental college.

(c) The recommendations of the Medical Council of India are under examination.

[English]

Ban on Benzene Hexa Chloride

3465. SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSONTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced ban on Benzene Hexa Chloride (BHC) insecticide in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the Government have selected its substitute;

(c) the details of comparative cost of spraying the target population area with BHC and the selected substitute;

(d) the total additional cost outlay on Malaria Control Programme due to switch over to substitute insecticide; and

(c) whether the additional cost is justified in comparison with the risk involved in the continued use of BHC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Benzene Hexa Chloride (BHC) is a potential environmental pollutant due to which its continued use as an insecticide has been banned after 31st March, 1997.

The alternative insecticide under the Public Health Programme is mainly Malathion 25% wp in areas where mosquitoes are resistant to BHC and DDT. However, in general the reliance on insecticides is to be replaced by safer bio-environmental methods and by encouraging the community to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes through education, example and deterrent measures where necessary.

(c) As per the Environment Assessment Report submitted by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, per capital cost for indoor residual spray with Malathion per annum is Rs. 36.12 as against Rs. 8.97 for BHC at the prices prevailing in 1996.

(d) and (e) BHC is a decentralised item to be procured mainly by the States. Intensive stratification of areas is being undertaken to reduce the use of spraying insecticides. Safer methods like use of larvivorous fish and medicated bet-nets are being tried out so that dependence on chemical larvicides reduces. It is too early to say what the substitution costs would be as this would depend on the efficacy of all the alternative strategies which are at various states of trial. In view of the potential hazards in the use of BHC, the extra costs spent on alternatives are justified.

T-72 Ajeya Tank

3466. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total allocations made for the T-72 (Ajeya) Tank project;

(b) whether there had been over-procurement of raw materials intentioned for the tanks;

(c) if so, the total number of machines/raw materials lying idle causing the exchequer huge loss of money;

(d) whether a large quantity of machines and raw materials failed to meet the quality standards;

(e) if so, whether quality control requirements have been ignored while placing the orders;

(f) if so, the estimated loss due to the machines not being put to use resulting in pilferage, etc.;

(g) whether the Government propose to appoint a high-level committee to unearth these large scale losses to the exchequer due to mismanagement; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The allocation is Rs. 412.25 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. Do not arise in view of (b) to (f) above.

[Translation]

Ground Water Level

3467. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted any scheme to the Union Government for increasing the ground water level; and

(b) if so, the time by which the scheme is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted a proposal for providing financial assistance for the project prepared by them for ground water recharge in six Districts at an estimated cost of Rs. 3257.39 lakh. In addition, a scheme on Bolana Percolation Tank in Khandwa Distt. has also been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The State Government have been inform that the Government of India have prepared a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Assisting the States in Ground Water Recharge on pilot basis. The Scheme is still at consultation stage. Financial assistance for some of the projects of the State Government can be considered after the Scheme is approved.

Planetariums

3468. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of planetariums set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposed to set up any planetarium in Giridih, Kodarma and Hazaribag districts of South Bihar;